Bayesian Hierarchical MPT Models Application and Practice with TreeBUGS

Daniel W. Heck



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TreeBUGS: Bayesian Hierarchical MPT Modeling

- The R package TreeBUGS
- Basic modeling
 - Model fitting
 - Convergence
 - Plots
 - Model fit
- 3 Advanced modeling
 - Within-subject comparisons
 - Between-subject comparisons
 - Covariates
- 4 Sensitivity/robustness analysis
 - Priors
 - Predictive distributions
 - Simulation

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Software for Hierarchical MPT Models

Software for Hierarchical MPTs

- Implementation of MCMC sampling in R/C/Fortran (Klauer, 2010)
- General-purpose software: WinBUGS/JAGS/Stan (Matzke et al., 2015)
- Requires re-implementation of summaries, statistics, plots

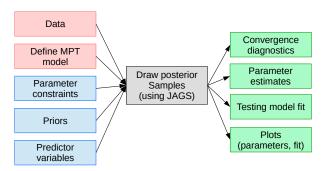
TreeBUGS: A user-friendly R package (Heck, Arnold, & Arnold, 2018)

- Easy-to-use, open source, free
- Fitting and testing MPT models
 - Posterior sampling, summary statistics, and plots
 - Data generation, robustness simulations
 - Change priors, add predictors, etc.
 - Current limitation: Crossed random effects (persons + items)

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Functionality of TreeBUGS

- Input: R objects or text/csv files (minimal R knowledge required)
- Priors and other details can be changed in R
- TreeBUGS translates the model to JAGS (Plummer, 2003) to draw posterior samples
- Functions for post-processing, summaries and plots



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TreeBUGS Paper Behav Res CrossMark DOI 10.3758/s13428-017-0869-7 TreeBUGS: An R package for hierarchical multinomial-processing-tree modeling Daniel W. Heck1 · Nina R. Arnold1 · Denis Arnold2,3 © The Author(s) 2017. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com Abstract Multinomial processing tree (MPT) models are a estimates, fit statistics, and within- and between-subjects comclass of measurement models that account for categorical data parisons, as well as goodness-of-fit and summary plots. We

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also propose and implement novel statistical extensions to

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by assuming a finite number of underlying cognitive process-

as Traditionally data are accurated course marticipants and

Basic Modeling

(corresponding R script: 08-ApplicationIV-TreeBUGS.R)

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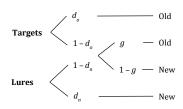
MPT Model Specification

- MPT structure is defined in an EQN model file
 - Simple: copy from multiTree :-)
- Difference: the symbol # allows to add comments

Two-high threshold model (file: 2htm.eqn)

lure cr (1-dn)*(1-g)

```
# Targets
target hit do
target hit (1-do)*g
target miss (1-do)* (1-g)
# Lures
lure cr dn
lure fa (1-dn)*g
```



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Data Structure

- Data: Response frequencies in wide format
 - One line per person
 - One category per column
 - Column names must be identical to the EQN categories!
- Either supplied in .csv-file or as data.frame / matrix in R

Example: 2htm.csv

```
frequencies <- read.csv("2htm.csv")
head(frequencies, 5)</pre>
```

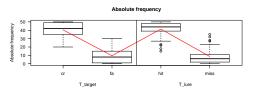
```
## cr fa hit miss
## 1 49 1 49 1
## 2 46 4 39 11
## 3 43 7 45 5
## 4 49 1 50 0
```

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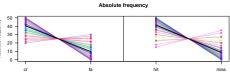
Heterogeneity

- Load TreeBUGS and plot heterogeneity
- If response frequencies are homogeneous, standard (fixed-effects) MPT models are statistically more efficient

```
library("TreeBUGS")
plotFreq(frequencies, eqnfile = "2htm.eqn")
```



```
plotFreq(frequencies, boxplot = FALSE, eqnfile = "2htm.eqn")
```



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Fitting MPT Models

- Fitting an MPT model in TreeBUGS
 - Model: Text file in EQN syntax (with model equations)
 - Data: .csvfile
 - Constraints: text file with equality contraints

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Fitting an MPT Model in R

- Alternative: define everything directly in R
 - Model: Text string (character in apostrophes)
 - Data: Matrix or data frame
 - Constraints: A list

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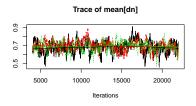
Equality constraints

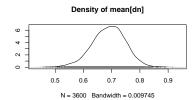
```
# (A) use a general model file and constrain parameters:
fit <- traitMPT(eqnfile = htm,</pre>
                data = frequencies,
                restrictions = list("dn=do", "g=.50"))
# (B) hard-coding of constraints in the EQN file:
htm constr <- "
target hit d
target hit (1-d)*.50
target miss (1-d)*.50
lure cr d
lure fa (1-d)*.50
lure cr (1-d)*.50
fit <- traitMPT(eqnfile = htm_constr,</pre>
                data = frequencies)
```

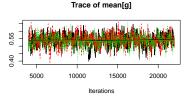
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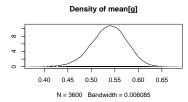
- Convergence check
 - Posterior/ MCMC samples should look unsystematic (like a hairy caterpillar)
 - For more options, see: ?plot.traitMPT

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "default")
```



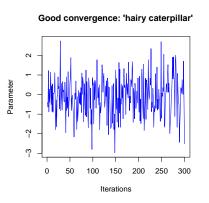




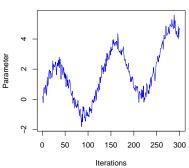


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■ Interpreting MCMC plots



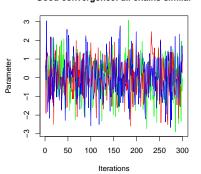
Bad convergence: slow movement



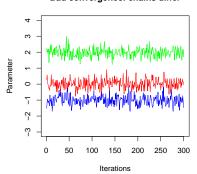
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- Gelman-Rubin statistic (\hat{R})
 - Also known as: "potential scale reduction factor" or "R hat"
 - Similar to ANOVA: Compares between-chain and within-chain variances (large differences between these variances indicate nonconvergence)
 - Statistic should be close to 1 (standard criterion: $\hat{R} < 1.05$)

Good convergence: all chains similar



Bad convergence: chains differ



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- Gelman-Rubin statistic (\hat{R})
 - Columns Rhat and R_95% in the summary output

```
summary(fit)
```

```
## Call:
    ## traitMPT(eqnfile = htm, data = frequencies, restrictions = list("dn=do"),
          ppp = 1000)
    ##
    ##
    ## Group-level medians of MPT parameters (probability scale):
    ##
               Mean
                       SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat R 95%
    ## mean dn 0.690 0.060 0.564 0.692 0.801
                                                   0.004
                                                           229 1.016 1.023
    ## mean g 0.538 0.037 0.461 0.539 0.607
                                                   0.001 661 1.006 1.017
    ##
    ## Mean/Median of latent-trait values (probit-scale) across individuals:
    ##
                           SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat
                    Mean
    ## latent mu dn 0.503 0.172 0.161 0.502 0.845
                                                    0.012
                                                                220 1.017
    ## latent mu g 0.095 0.094 -0.099 0.098 0.270
                                                       0.004 662 1.006
    ##
                   R 95%
    ## latent mu dn 1.021
    ## latent mu g 1.017
    ##
    ## Standard deviation of latent-trait values (probit scale) across individuals:
    ##
                              SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat
                       Mean
    ## latent_sigma_dn 1.200 0.155 0.938 1.186 1.535 0.003 2902 1.002
    ## latent sigma g 0.435 0.081 0.299 0.426 0.619
                                                          0.002 2391 1.002
    ##
                     R 95%
Daniel ## Heatent_sigma_dn 1.006
```

Options for MCMC Sampling

• If the model has not converged, it must be fitted with more conservative settings:

```
fit <- traitMPT(
   eqnfile = htm, data = frequencies,
   restrictions = list("dn=do"),

n.adapt = 5000, # longer adaption of JAGS increases efficiency of sampling
   n.burnin = 5000,# longer burnin avoids issues due to bad starting values
   n.iter = 30000, # drawing more MCMC samples leads to higher precision
   n.thin = 10, # ommitting every 10th sample reduces memory load
   n.chains = 4) # more MCMC chains increase precision</pre>
```

```
## MCMC sampling started at 2018-09-14 20:53:53

## Calling 4 simulations using the parallel method...

## Following the progress of chain 1 (the program will wait for all

## chains to finish before continuing):

## Welcome to JAGS 4.3.0 on Fri Sep 14 20:53:57 2018

## JAGS is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

## Loading module: basemod: ok

## Loading module: bugs: ok

## . Loading module: dic: ok

## . Loading module: glm: ok

## . . Reading data file data.txt

Daniel ## Compiling data graph
```

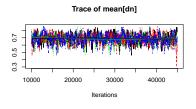
Extend MCMC Sampling

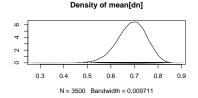
- If the MCMC samples are OK but higher precision is needed:
 - Extend sampling and add new MCMC samples to the fitted JAGS object

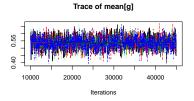
```
fit2 <- extendMPT(fit.
                                        # fitted MPT model
                      n.adapt = 2000, # JAGS need to restart and adapt again
                      n.burnin = 0, # burnin not needed if previous samples are OK
                      n.iter = 10000) # how many additional iterations?
    ## Calling 4 simulations using the parallel method...
    ## Following the progress of chain 1 (the program will wait for all
    ## chains to finish before continuing):
    ## Welcome to JAGS 4.3.0 on Fri Sep 14 20:54:50 2018
    ## JAGS is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY
    ## Loading module: basemod: ok
    ## Loading module: bugs: ok
    ## . Loading module: dic: ok
    ## . Loading module: glm: ok
    ## . . Reading data file data.txt
    ## . Compiling data graph
    ##
          Resolving undeclared variables
    ##
          Allocating nodes
    ##
          Initializing
          Reading data back into data table
    ##
    ## Compiling model graph
          Resolving undeclared variables
    ##
    ##
          Allocating nodes
    ## Graph information:
Daniel ## Heck Observed stochastic nodes: 100
```

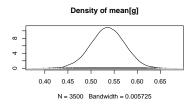
Convergence for Second Fit

Check convergence again:









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Parameter Estimates

- Summary statistics for posterior distribution:
 - Posterior mean and median (50% quantile)
 - Posterior standard deviation (SD, similar to standard error)
 - Bayesian credibility interval (2.5% and 97.5% quantiles)

summary(fit2)

Daniel ## Heck

```
## Call:
## [[1]]
## traitMPT(eqnfile = htm, data = frequencies, restrictions = list("dn=do"),
      n.iter = 30000, n.adapt = 5000, n.burnin = 5000, n.thin = 10,
      n.chains = 4)
##
##
## [[2]]
## extendMPT(fittedModel = fit, n.iter = 10000, n.adapt = 2000,
##
      n.burnin = 0)
##
##
## Group-level medians of MPT parameters (probability scale):
                   SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat R 95%
##
           Mean
## mean_dn 0.688 0.062 0.557 0.692 0.798
                                            0.002
                                                        659 1.010 1.030
## mean g 0.536 0.036 0.463 0.536 0.607 0.001 1756 1.001 1.004
##
## Mean/Median of latent-trait values (probit-scale) across individuals:
##
                Mean
                        SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat
## latent mu dn 0.498 0.176 0.144 0.500 0.835
                                                    0.007 661 1.010
## latent mu g 0.091 0.092 -0.092 0.091 0.271
                                                     0.002 1757 1.001
##
               R_95%
## latent mu dn 1.032
## latent mu g 1.004
```

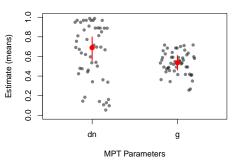
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Plot Parameter Estimates

- Estimates for group-level parameters
 - lacktriangle Overall mean μ : Posterior mean and Bayesian credibility interval
 - Individual parameters θ_i : Posterior mean

plotParam(fit)

roup-level means + 95% CI (red) and individual means



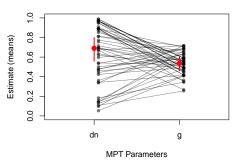
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Plot Parameter Estimates

- Plot parameter profiles
 - E.g., assess test-retest reliability of a parameter (Michalkiewicz & Erdfelder, 2016)
- For more options, see: ?plotParam

```
plotParam(fit, addLines = TRUE, select = c("dn", "g"))
```

roup-level means + 95% CI (red) and individual means



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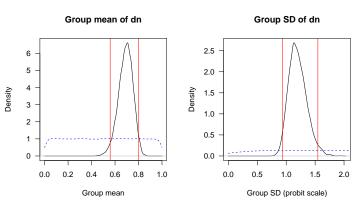
Compare Prior and Posterior

How much did we learn about the parameters?

Graphical assessment: Plot prior (blue) and posterior (black) densities

plotPriorPost(fit)

Press <Enter> to show the next plot.



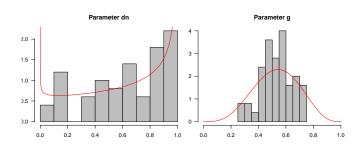
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Group-Level Distribution

Distribution of individual estimates

- Histogram: Distribution of θ estimates (posterior mean per person)
- Red density: Estimated group-level distribution

plotDistribution(fit) # graphical test



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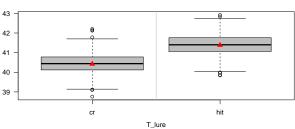
Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

Graphical test of model fit

- Plot means of observed frequencies
- Compare against posterior-predicted frequencies (boxplots)

```
plotFit(fit) # graphical test
```

Observed (red) and predicted (boxplot) mean frequencies



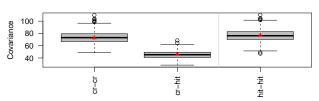
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Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

■ Model fit for *covariance* of observed frequencies

```
cov(frequencies)
                            # this is the observed covariance matrix we test
##
                         fa
                                  hit.
                                           miss
               cr
## cr
         72.73837 -72.73837
                             45.98000 -45.98000
## fa
        -72.73837
                   72.73837 -45.98000 45.98000
## hit.
        45.98000 -45.98000 76.85265 -76.85265
## miss -45.98000 45.98000 -76.85265 76.85265
plotFit(fit, stat = "cov") # graphical test
```

Observed (red) and predicted (gray) covariances



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Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

Testing model fit

- The statistics T1 and T2 quantify the discrepancy between observed and expected means/covariances (similar to Pearson's X²)
- Posterior predictive p-values

PPP(fit, M = 2000, nCPU = 4)

- Values around .50 indicate good model fit
- Values close to 0 (or close to 1) indicate misfit
- In contrast to frequentist p-values, PPP values are not uniformly distributed when generating data from the correct model

```
## Mean structure (T1):
   Observed = 0.03211199 : Predicted = 0.03315611 : p-value = 0.5195
##
## ## Covariance structure (T2):
   Observed = 6.702816; Predicted = 7.575446; p-value = 0.5335
##
## ## Individual fit (T1):
                                   6
## 0.590 0.439 0.558 0.413 0.480 0.522 0.432 0.508 0.280 0.530 0.488 0.535
           14 15 16
                             17
                               18
                                        19
                                              20
                                                   21
                                                         22
                                                                     24
##
## 0.357 0.508 0.483 0.538 0.418 0.488 0.522 0.518 0.464 0.220 0.464 0.366
      25
           26
                 27
                       28
                             29
                                  30
                                        31
                                              32
                                                   33
                                                          34
                                                                     36
##
## 0.490 0.509 0.412 0.516 0.217 0.239 0.519 0.558 0.512 0.580 0.353 0.519
     37
           38
                 39
                    40
                            41
                                  42
                                     43
                                              44
                                                   45
## LO 418 0.541 0.498 0.354 0.503 0.503 0.400 0.324 0.304 0.528 0.204 0.472
```

Summary

Modeling with TreeBUGS is simple

- Define model and clean data
- Draw MCMC samples
- Check convergence
- 4 Check model fit
- 5 Interpret/plot parameters

Note that these are the usual steps in any Bayesian analysis. . .

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Advanced Modeling

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Within-Subject Comparisons

Assessing within-subject differences in parameters

- Data: Additional columns for separate within-subject conditions
- 2 Model: Write EQN file for within-subject design
- MCMC sampling (as usual)
- Comparison: Compute differences of parameters (transformed parameters)

(1) Data structure for within-subject design

```
freq_within <- read.csv("2htm_within.csv")
head(freq_within, 3)</pre>
```

```
##
     high_cr high_fa high_hit high_miss low_cr low_fa low_hit low_miss
## 1
          47
                    3
                             47
                                                       17
                                                               27
                                        3
                                               33
                                                                         23
## 2
          43
                             47
                                               37
                                                       13
                                                               31
                                                                         19
          38
                   12
                             40
                                        10
                                                               39
                                                                         11
## 3
                                               36
                                                       14
```

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Within-Subject Comparisons

(2) Model: Function for writing within-subject EQN files

- TreeBUGS has a function extends a standard MPT model to multiple within-subject conditions
- Essentially, model equations are copied and each parameter gets a new label (e.g., d condition1)

```
Equation
##
                 Category
           Tree
## 1
     high target high hit
                                  d high
## 2
     high_target high_hit (1-d_high)*g
     high_target high_miss (1-d_high)*(1-g)
## 3
## 4
    high_lure high_cr
                                  d_high
## 5 high_lure high_fa (1-d_high)*g
## 6
     high lure high cr (1-d high)*(1-g)
## 7
      low_target low_hit
                                   d low
## 8
      low target
                low hit
                             (1-d low)*g
      low target low miss (1-d low)*(1-g)
## 9
## 10
     low_lure low_cr
                                   d low
## 11
     low lure low fa
                              (1-d low)*g
       low lure
                          (1-d low)*(1-g)
## 12
                 low cr
```

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Within-Subject Comparisons

(4) Transformed parameters

- Often the interest is in the difference of a parameter across conditions
 - **Example:** Difference in memory strength $\Delta_d = d_{\mathsf{high}} d_{\mathsf{low}}$
- Based on the MCMC samples, we can simply compute any function of interest
 - We get a new set of posterior samples that can be summarized as usual

```
# fit to all conditions:
fit_within <- traitMPT("2htm_within.eqn", "2htm_within.csv")

# compute difference in d:
diff_d <- transformedParameters(
   fit_within,
   transformedParameters = list("diff_d = d_high - d_low"),
   level = "group")
summary(diff_d)$statistics</pre>
```

```
## Mean SD Naive SE Time-series SE
## 0.2949328944 0.0386672280 0.0003720756 0.0015282277
```

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Comparisons in between-subject designs

- I Fit MPT model to each condition separately
 - lacksquare Separate group-level parameters μ and Σ per group
- Compute differences in group-level parameters across conditions/models

```
## Mean SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat R_95% ## d.m1-d.m2 0.393 0.074 0.244 0.394 0.539 0.004 416 1.026 1.082 ## d.m1>d.m2 1.000 0.000 1.000 1.000 1.000 NaN 0 NaN NaN
```

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Correlation of MPT parameters with external covariates

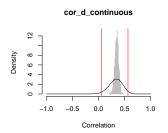
- New argument covData: A data frame or file name with values of the covariate(s)
- TreeBUGS computes the correlation of these covariates with the latent person parameters θ (probit values)

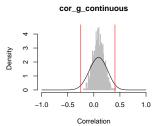
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Covariates: Correlations

- Note that the posterior samples of the (descriptive) correlations only reflect uncertainty with respect to the MPT parameters
- We also need to consider the number of participants (sample size)!
- Solution: Use an analytical solution or the posterior distribution of the correlation (Ly et al., 2018)

correlationPosterior(fit cor)





```
## 2.5% 50% 97.5%
## cor_d_continuous 0.055 0.33 0.565
## cor g continuous -0.250 0.08 0.405
```

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Covariates: Regression

Regression of MPT parameters on covariates

- \blacksquare Example: Predict memory performance d as a function of age
- Statistically, this requires an regression extension to the model
- The latent probit values θ'_i are predicted by a design matrix X:

$$\theta_i' = \mu + X_i \beta + \delta_i$$

Implementation in TreeBUGS

Requires only two new arguments to provide the data (age of persons) and the regression structure (predict parameter D_n by age)

```
round(fit_regression$summary$group$slope[,-6], 2)
```

```
## Mean SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% n.eff Rhat R_95% ## 0.18 0.07 0.03 0.17 0.33 327.00 1.00 1.01
```

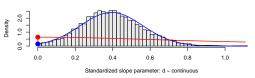
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Bayes Factor for Covariate

Compute a Bayes factor

- H0: Slope parameter $\beta = 0$
- H1: Slope parameter $\beta \sim \text{Cauchy}(0, r)$ (with scale parameter r)
- Method: Savage-Dickey density ratio (Wagenmakers, 2010)
 - \blacksquare Bayes factor H1 vs. H0: prior devided by posterior density (at $\beta=0)$

Bayes factor B_10=4.287 (prior red; posterior blue)



```
## BF_0> BF_>0
## slope d_continuous 0.2332698 4.286881
```

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Between-Subject Comparisons: Similar to ANOVA

Between-subject designs: Assumptions about the covariance matrix Σ

- lacksquare Separate covariance matrix per condition: $oldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, oldsymbol{\Sigma}_2, \dots$
 - See previous slides: betweenSubjectMPT(fit1, fit2)
- 2 Identical covariance matrix Σ across conditions
 - Similar to ANOVA: "pooled variance" (Rouder & Morey; 2012)
 - lacksquare Manipulation only affects the mean parameters μ

```
# get estimates for the group-specific MPT parameters
gmeans <- getGroupMeans(fit_between)
round(gmeans, 2)</pre>
```

```
## Mean SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% p(one-sided vs. overall)
## d_discrete[group_a] 0.74 0.08 0.57 0.74 0.87 0.15
## d_discrete[group_b] 0.62 0.09 0.44 0.62 0.78 0.15
```

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 $Sensitivity/robustness\ analysis$

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Define different priors

- Prior distributions in the latent-trait MPT necessary for:
 - Latent (probit-) mean μ
 - Latent (probit-) covariance matrix Σ : scaled inverse Wishart with
 - Prior matrix V
 - Degrees of freedom df
 - \blacksquare Scaling parameter ξ
- Example: We assume that guessing probabilities are around 50%

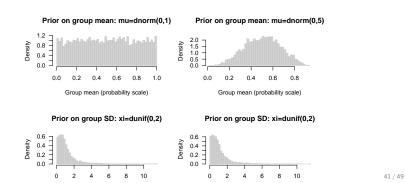
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Understanding Priors

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What do the priors actually mean?

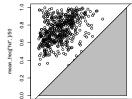
- Draw samples from the prior
- Plot mean/SD of MPT parameters



Prior Predictive Sampling

Prior predictive distribution

- Draw samples from the prior
- Draw new data (response frequencies)
- 3 Assess predicted data (e.g., plots or descriptive statistics)

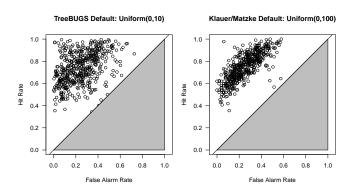


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Prior Predictive Sampling

Excursion: Different default priors for the scale parameter ξ

- **I** TreeBUGS (Heck et al., 2018): $\xi \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 10)$
- Z Klauer (2010) and Matzke et al. (2015): $\xi \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 100)$



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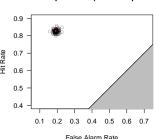
Posterior Predictive

Posterior Predictive Distribution

- What data does the fitted model predict?
- Use posterior samples of the parameters to draw new samples of the data (i.e., predicted response frequencies)
 - Note: These are the basis of posterior-predictive checks (T1 and T2 statistics)

```
postpred <- posteriorPredictive(fit, M = 100, nCPU = 4)</pre>
```





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Sensitivity and robustness analysis

- Assessing the impact of priors, estimate necessary sample size for specific analysis etc.
 - I Generate data from (correct or wrong) model
 - Fit model
 - 3 If necessary: Replicate with a for-loop

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Appendix: Testing for Heterogeneity

A) chi 2 test

■ Test by Smith & Batchelder (2008)

test <- testHetChi(freg = frequencies,

- 1 Test person heterogeneity assuming items homogeneity (χ^2)
- Test person heterogeneity under item heterogeneity (permutation bootstrap)

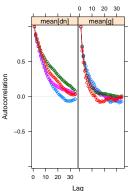
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Appendix: Convergence

Autocorrelation function

- \blacksquare How strongly are the MCMC samples correlated between iteration t and iteration t+Lag?
- Ideally, these curves should rapidly decrease towards zero.

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "acf")
```

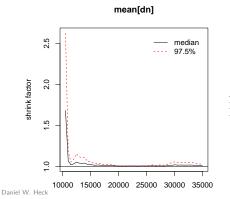


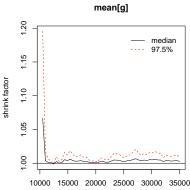
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Appendix: Convergence

- Plot evolution of Gelman-Rubin statistic
 - Also known as: "potential scale reduction factor" or "R hat"
 - Similar to ANOVA: Compares between-chain and within-chain variances (large differences between these variances indicate nonconvergence)
 - Statistic should be close to 1

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "gelman")
```





Appendix: MPT Versions Implemented in TreeBUGS

MCMC samplers available in TreeBUGS

- Fixed-effects ("standard") MPT: Gibbs sampler in C++
- Beta-MPT: JAGS and C++
- Latent-trait with extensions: JAGS
 - Combination of random- and fixed-effects parameters
 - Continuous and categorical covariates
 - Group-level structure: Independent normal distributions

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